

**Question for written answer E-013890/2015
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Mark Demesmaeker (ECR) and Helga Stevens (ECR)**

Subject: VP/HR - recent rebellion in Tajikistan

Violence has been increasing in Tajikistan in a manner reminiscent of the civil war of the 1990s. The Deputy Minister of Defence has been killed together with eleven rebels who were suspected of participation in an armed insurrection in Dushanbe in August.

Under the pretext of fighting terrorism, the regime of President Rahmon is engaging in massive intimidation and arrests of political opponents, critical journalists and members of NGOs.

The government recently decided to outlaw the only Islamic opposition party and regard it as a terrorist organisation. This party was a legacy from the peace negotiations which brought the civil war to an end.

In addition, public officials have been banned from attending Friday prayers.

In June, the Commission confirmed the allocation of EUR 251 million in development aid to Tajikistan for the period 2014-2020. The EU called on the country to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms and implement democratic reforms.

Could the recent developments affect this aid?

What impact could the ban on the Islamic opposition party have on the internal and external politics of Tajikistan?

What is the Commission's assessment of the risk of radicalisation of the poor Muslim population for the country, which is already suffering from instability along its borders with Afghanistan and is under pressure from IS?